

work with you and address your concerns. So I would ask for the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. The question is, shall LB 609 be advanced to E & R Initial? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 609.

SENATOR HALL: LB 609 is advanced. The next item, Mr. Clerk, LB 447.

CLERK: Mr. President, 447 was a bill original introduced by Senator Robinson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17, referred to Transportation. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Robinson, to open on the bill.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yes, Senator, or Mr. President and members of the body, LB 447 allows the names of bidders on Department of Roads projects to be available to the public. Currently, the names of bidders are not available to the public until after the bids are open. LB 447 removes this restriction from the statute. It allows the public acc...it allows the public access to the names of the bidders and the names of persons receiving proposal forms. This change is desirable for a couple of reasons. First, potential subcontractors could offer their supplies and services to all prime contractors who are interested in bidding. That would help ensure the contractors aware of what is available and is hoped to result in the lowest bid possible for the state. Second, the Department of Roads would no longer have to provide or make available to potential bidders the lists of suppliers and subcontractors. Currently, the Department of Roads posts a list by project of interested suppliers and contractors for use by bidders. The prohibition on releasing bidders' names prior to the bid opening was adopted in the 1950s. According to the Department of Roads, the only experience with bid-rigging occurred after the prohibition was adopted. I would urge you the...I would urge for you to pass LB 447. Thank you very much.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Any discussion with regard to the advancement of LB 447? Seeing none, Senator